

DECEPTION

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. REHABILITATION CENTER -- DAY

KAY RUBY (28), an alluring, yet plainly dressed woman sits on the stairs, waiting. Her bags are next to her.

JASON RUBY (32), dressed in stylish, yet casual wear, approaches her. He stops in front of her, smiles.

Kay holds up one hand. Jason takes it, pulls her up.

JASON  
Ready to leave?

KAY  
I was a week ago already.

JASON  
I've got a surprise for you.

Jason picks up her bags, saunters away.

KAY  
Jase?

JASON  
Yeah.

KAY  
I'm gonna stay clean.

JASON  
I know.

KAY  
No, really.

JASON  
I know.

He puts the bags down, embraces her. They hold hands as they head to the car.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DRIVEWAY -- LATER

Jason hands a key for the house to Kay.

KAY  
Whose house?

JASON

Ours.

Kay beams.

KAY

Oh my God! What did your mother  
have to say about it?

JASON

Didn't give her a chance. Just told  
her we were moving out.

Kay throws her arms around Jason's neck, kisses him. She  
grins as she unlocks the door.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - BATHROOM -- DAY

Jason places a ladder under the bathroom light. He climbs up,  
screws off the fitting, places it on the bathroom counter. He  
removes the bulb, replaces it with a new one, and puts back  
the fitting. He climbs off the ladder, opens the tap to wash  
his hands.

Jason lifts his hand to his face, winces, crumples to the  
ground.

KAY (O.S.)

Jase?

Kay looks into the bathroom, sees him lying there. She kneels  
beside him, feels for a pulse.

KAY (CONT'D)

Answer me.

Jason groans, tries to sit up.

INT. DOCTOR'S ROOM -- DAY

Jason and Kay wait in the room. The DOCTOR (40s) enters,  
holding a clipboard.

DOCTOR

This is not the first time you've  
had a blackout?

JASON

No, it's happened a few times.

KAY

Why didn't you tell me?

The doctor inspects Jason's eyes with a light.

DOCTOR  
I'll order a series of tests.

The doctor leaves the room.

Jase gives Kay an embarrassed look.

JASON  
It's nothing. Don't stress about  
it.

Kay bites the edge of her nail. Jason pulls her hand from her mouth.

JASON (CONT'D)  
You need to worry about you, okay?

KAY  
I'm fine, really. This time. I'm  
allowed to worry about you.

Jason kisses her gently on the forehead.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

The room is simply decorated, a homely appearance. A small cabinet in one corner of the room.

Kay places a glass down on the cabinet. She glances around to make sure that nobody else is coming, fills the glass about halfway with whiskey, then swallows the liquid with one swift gulp.

She refills the glass. She tops up the whiskey bottle with water, and puts it back in the cabinet.

Kay empties the glass again. She takes a peppermint from her pocket and pops it into her mouth. She walks to

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - GARDEN -- DAY

Jason and DEX RUBY (4), their son, both in swimsuits, scamper up from the beach.

Jason sweeps Kay up, and spins her around. Kay giggles, and struggles playfully out of Jason's arms. She wraps a towel around Dex.

Jason frowns, puts his hand to his forehead, plops down on the step.

JASON

Whoa!

KAY

You okay?

JASON

Just a little light-headed.

KAY

Any word from the doctor?

JASON

Scan's on Monday.

KAY

Take it easy, Jase. At least until we know what's wrong.

Jason smiles weakly.

JASON

Yes, Mother.

KAY

That's not funny.

Dex runs indoors. Kay heads in after him, returns with a glass of water. She hands it to Jason and sits next to him.

KAY (CONT'D)

I'm soooo looking forward to having your mom coming to visit?

JASON

It's just for four days, while they finish her house renovations.

Key raises her eyebrows.

KAY

Like she needs the house to be any bigger.

JASON

Dex misses his Gran.

Jason glances at his watch.

JASON (CONT'D)

They should be arriving in an hour.

Kay rests her head on Jason's shoulder.

KAY

Great.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Jason, now dressed in shorts, lies on a couch.

Kay and Dex sit at the table, building a puzzle.

A car honks OS. Dex squeals, dashes out the door. Jason follows him out.

Kay heads for the cabinet, takes a swig from the bottle, wipes her mouth off.

KAY

Let the games begin.

She pops a peppermint in her mouths, takes a deep breath, exhales slowly.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DRIVEWAY -- DAY

An expensive car drives up.

Jason's sister, SELINA MUNROE (28), expensively dressed, climbs out the driver side. Dex flings his arms around her leg. Selina picks him up.

Jason opens the passenger door, helps his mother, ERICA RUBY (60), out of the car. She is a distinguished lady, dripping in only the finest jewelry. Erica kisses Jason on his cheek.

ERICA

What has she been feeding you? You look so thin.

JASON

Just fit and healthy, Mom.

ERICA

Well, now that I'm here, I'll make sure you get some decent meals in you.

Erica pats his stomach.

Kay joins the group.

KAY

He's eating just fine.

Kay and Selina hug affectionately.

Erica stoops down to hug Dex. Dex throws his arms around her neck. He stands back, outstretches his arms as wide as they will go.

DEX

You should've seen the whoppers we caught, Gran. I never wanta move.

ERICA

Hopefully we'll be able to change your mind about that, dear.

Erica ruffles Dex's hair.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Selina drives like a maniac.

Selina and Jason share a knowing smile.

JASON

I'll get the bags. Once you're settled in, we can decide what to do for supper.

Erica turns around to face Jason, a puzzled look on her face.

ERICA

But we're supposed to be going to The Potts tonight. I told you about it on the phone yesterday. They're having a get-together...

Kay rolls her eyes.

ERICA (CONT'D)

...if you don't mind.

Jason puts his hand to his forehead.

JASON

I forgot. I'm sorry.

Erica frowns.

ERICA

You okay?

Jason opens the trunk of Selina's car.

JASON

Yeah, fine.

Dex grabs Erica's hand, pulls her towards the house.

DEX  
Cmon. See my room, Gran.

Erica giggles.

ERICA  
I cannot believe how big you've  
gotten. You're as handsome as your  
father too.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - ERICA'S BEDROOM -- DAY

Erica sits on the bed, unpacking a bag. Jason carries in a  
suitcase, drops the car keys on the floor without noticing.

ERICA  
Still having headaches?

Kay walks in with a folded blanket.

JASON  
I found a new doctor. We're waiting  
for the results.

Kay places the blanket at the end of the bed.

KAY  
In case you need it tonight.

JASON  
Quit doting over me, Mom. It's  
probably blood sugar or something.

Kay puts an arm around Jason.

KAY  
I'm taking good care of him.

Erica glances at Kay.

ERICA  
I can't help but worry about my  
son.

Jason heads out the doorway.

JASON  
I'll fetch the other bags.



INT. BEACH HOUSE - HALLWAY -- DAY

Jason feels his pockets, turns back. He stops outside the doorway, listens to the conversation.

ERICA (O.S.)  
Does he know?

KAY (O.S.)  
Just let it be, Erica. Jason is not well at the moment.

ERICA (O.S.)  
That's a convenient excuse.

Jason walks back into

INT. BEACH HOUSE - ERICA'S BEDROOM -- DAY

JASON  
What don't I know?

Kay and Erica glare at each other.

KAY  
Your mother is interfering.

Erica throws her arms up in the air.

ERICA  
You are unbelievable!

Kay links her arm through Jason's.

KAY  
Your mother wants me to get this place redecorated.

Jason shakes his head.

JASON  
I have to agree with Kay. The place is fine as is.

Erica's mouth drops open. Kay leads Jason out of the room.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - MAIN BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Kay, dressed in evening wear, brushes her hair, fixes her make-up.

Jason walks out of the adjoining bathroom, a towel around his waist. He kisses Kay on the top of her head.

He fetches a jewelry box from the wardrobe, hands it to Kay.

JASON

I got something for you.

Kay opens the box, finds a charm bracelet inside. She kisses Jason.

KAY

Wow!

JASON

Just to let you know how much I  
love you.

Kay puts the bracelet on, admires it.

KAY

It's beautiful, Jason.

INT. POTTS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

The room is filled with people. It is lavishly furnished, and designed for entertaining. Waiters move around the room, refilling glasses, and offering snacks.

Jason and Erica chat to MR. AND MRS. POTTS (60s).

PHYLLIS POTTS (26), in a designer outfit, not a hair out of place, joins the group. Erica greets Phyllis with a kiss on the cheek.

Kay and Selina sit in a corner of the room. Kay indicates to a waiter that she needs a refill, and he walks over and hands her a full glass.

SELINA

Oh great! Miss Perfect is here. For  
the next few days all we'll hear  
about is Phyllis did this, and  
Phyllis did that.

Kay laughs aloud. Jason glances across at Kay. She lifts her glass to him, and takes a sip. Kay has had quite a bit to drink, and her speech is slurred.

KAY

Your brother seems to be having a  
great time as well.

Selina watches Jason.

SELINA  
Are things okay?

KAY  
Never been better. I think the move  
has really pissed your mom off  
though.

SELINA  
Honey, you've been a thorn in my  
mother's side since before you and  
Jason were even married. Remember  
the first weekend you came home  
with me?

Kay and Selina both laugh.

SELINA (CONT'D)  
What a great brother. Runs off with  
my best friend.

They're enjoying each other's company. Erica puts her arm  
around Phyllis. She catches Kay's eye, whispers something to  
Phyllis. Phyllis chuckles. Kay grows serious.

KAY  
I'll never be good enough for her  
baby.

SELINA  
Trouble seems to follow you around.

The crowd grows louder. Jason looks over to Kay and sees her  
trying to stand up. She trips and falls back into her seat.

He excuses himself and walks over to where Kay and Selina  
sit. Kay giggles uncontrollably.

KAY  
I know you. Wanna mess around,  
sailor?

JASON  
How much has she had to drink,  
Selina?

SELINA  
Obviously more than I thought.

JASON  
Maybe we should leave.

Kay manages to stand up, throws her arm around Jason's neck.

KAY

What's the matter, baby? I thought  
you were having a good time.

Kay hiccups.

KAY (CONT'D)

Oops.

Erica watches, walks over.

ERICA

What's going on?

Kay smiles at her.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Oh God, she's drunk again.

Erica turns to Jason.

ERICA (CONT'D)

How long did it take this time?

JASON

She's just tired. I'm going to take  
her home.

SELINA

I'll take her home. You stay here  
and spend time with Mom.

KAY

But I don't wanna go. The party's  
just starting.

Some of the guests stare at them. Kay pouts like a two year  
old.

Selina puts her arm around Kay, guides her toward the door.

SELINA

We'll have our own little party at  
home.

Erica shakes her head.

ERICA

Some things never change.

JASON

Give her a break, Mom. She's handling things a lot better this time. I think you're stressing her out.

ERICA

Its time you see her for what she really is.

INT. POTTS' HOUSE - BATHROOM -- NIGHT

Jason leans on the basin, rubs his temples. He digs in his pockets, pulls out a bottle of pills. He opens the bottle, pours two pills into his hand and swallows them.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- LATER

Jason and Erica find Selina awake, watching television. Kay sleeps on a couch, an empty glass on the floor next to her.

Erica shakes her head, disapprovingly.

ERICA

I'm off to bed.

Erica kisses both her children, and leaves. Jason lifts Kay into his arms carries her.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - MAIN BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Jason struggles with the bed covers, pulls them back, and puts Kay in the bed.

He removes the bracelet from her arm, places it on the bedside table. Kay mumbles in her sleep, rolls over. Jason stares at her, tucks a strand of hair behind her ear.

JASON

You promised, Kay.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Selina leans against the open front door, looking outside. Jason joins her.

JASON

You want something to drink?

She walks back into the room, takes a seat.

SELINA

No thanks.

Jason pours himself a drink.

JASON

Thanks for bringing Kay home. She's been exhausted. The move and all.

Selina raises her eyebrows.

SELINA

Not to mention the booze?

JASON

I think it's Mom. She hasn't had a drink in ages.

SELINA

Oh, come on, Jason. I'm not some outsider who doesn't know what the hell's going on.

JASON

She's a good wife, and a good mother. Just needs a break is all.

SELINA

You shouldn't have to constantly make excuses for her.

Jason grimaces, shuts his eyes. He leans forward.

SELINA (CONT'D)

I'm just worried about both of you. And Dex. You okay?

JASON

Just a headache.

Jason finishes his drink.

JASON (CONT'D)

I need air. I'm going to go for a walk on the beach.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - FRONT PORCH -- LATER

Jason sleeps in a chair. He startles awake, looks at his watch. He stumbles into the house.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - MAIN BEDROOM -- NIGHT

The room is dimly lit by moonlight.

Jason changes into boxer shorts. He pulls back the bed covers to find the bed empty. He knocks on the adjoining bathroom door.

JASON

Kay?

He opens the door, switches on the bathroom light.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - SELINA'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Jason switches on Selina's light, shakes her to wake her up.

JASON

Selina!

Selina sits up, startled.

SELINA

What?

JASON

Kay's missing.

Selina rubs her eyes.

SELINA

What is the time?

JASON

It's four o'clock.

Selina gets out of bed, pulls on her night gown.

SELINA

She must be here somewhere.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - GARDEN -- NIGHT

Jason and Selina step out to find Erica, smoking.

JASON

Mom, what are you doing out here?

Erica drops her cigarette, stamps on it.

ERICA  
I couldn't sleep. Came outside for  
a smoke.

JASON  
Have you seen Kay?

ERICA  
No. What has she done now?

JASON  
We can't find her.

ERICA  
What a pity.

Jason ignores her, walks back into the house.

SELINA  
Do you have to be so insensitive?

ERICA  
When it comes to her... Yes.

EXT. BEACH -- DAY

Jason and Selina wander along the sand.

POLICEMEN swarm the beach, searching. Boats out at sea,  
trawling the coastline.

Jason trips and falls. Selina helps him up, holds him.

SELINA  
We'll find her.

He nods, looking exhausted.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - GARDEN -- DAY

Jason, looking very tired and weary, sits on the steps of the  
porch, a cup of coffee in hand. Two policemen, take notes  
while questioning Jason.

POLICEMAN #1  
Are any of your wife's things  
missing? A wallet? Clothes?

JASON  
No.



POLICEMAN #1  
Were you and your wife having  
problems?

Jason glares at POLICEMAN #1.

JASON  
No, we weren't.

POLICEMAN #1  
Your mother says your wife had been  
drinking.

JASON  
We were at a party for crying out  
loud! We were all drinking.

A third policeman walks up from the beach.

POLICEMAN #3  
I think we may have found  
something.

EXT. BEACH -- LATER

FOUR POLICEMEN are gathered at the water's edge. Jason runs through the sand to where they stand. One of the policemen, DETECTIVE FORBES, steps forward.

DETECTIVE FORBES  
Mr. Ruby, I'm Detective Forbes.  
We've found a piece of clothing.

He directs Jason's attention to a piece of clothing just beyond the water's reach. It's dirty, wet, and covered with sand.

Jason drops to his knees.

JASON  
Oh my God! Kay... Jason picks up  
the night shirt, holds it to his  
face.

Detective Forbes puts a hand on Jason's shoulder.

DETECTIVE FORBES  
This doesn't prove anything yet. We  
will continue with the search.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Jason, Erica, Selina and Detective Forbes sit talking.

DETECTIVE FORBES

It's been six days now, and we've found nothing more. We need to discontinue the search.

JASON

Discontinue?

DETECTIVE FORBES

We believe your wife must have drowned, Mr. Ruby. And searching for a body in the sea, well...

Jason jumps out of his seat.

JASON

My wife is still out there, Detective! I'll be damned if I'm going to let you call off the search.

Jason grabs his head in pain. He drops back into his seat. Selina puts her arm around Jason.

JASON (CONT'D)

My wife couldn't swim. But then I guess you didn't know that.

Jason looks out of the window at the sea.

DETECTIVE FORBES

People do things that are...out of character when they've been drinking.

Jason breaks down into sobs. Selina draws his head onto her shoulder. Erica ushers Detective Forbes out the door.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DRIVEWAY -- DAY

Erica closes the door behind her and the detective.

ERICA

We are thankful for the great work you've been doing, Detective. My son is just distraught.

DETECTIVE FORBES

It's understandable.

ERICA

I could never understand why a woman who has everything would drink her life away.

DETECTIVE FORBES

Let me know if you think of anything else. Maybe you find something missing. Sometimes it's the smallest detail that makes all the difference.

ERICA

Of course, and thanks again.

Detective Forbes climbs into his car and drives off.

Erica stares toward the sea, shakes her head and smiles.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Finally I have my family back again.

SELINA (O.S.)

Mom! Help!

INT. BEACH HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Jason lies face down on the floor, unconscious. Selina rolls him onto his back.

ERICA

What happened?

SELINA

He just collapsed.

Erica checks Jason for a pulse.

ERICA

Call nine one-one.

Selina remains on her haunches.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Now!

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DRIVEWAY -- DAY

Two paramedics wheel out a stretcher with Jason on. He has an oxygen mask over his face, and a drip attached to his arm.

Selina and Erica follow the paramedics out.

ERICA

I'm going to follow the ambulance  
to the hospital. You stay here with  
Dex.

Selina nods.

INT. HOSPITAL - JASON'S ROOM -- DAY

Jason lies motionless. Monitors beep in the background.

Erica stands at the window, her head in her hands.

Selina enters.

SELINA

Any news?

ERICA

It's a brain tumor. They're taking  
him into surgery this afternoon.

Selina makes her way to Erica's side.

SELINA

Oh, Mom.

Erica walks over to Jason, touches his cheek.

ERICA

It's all her fault. It was just too  
much for him. Can you imagine what  
living with a drunken bitch must  
have been like?

A nurse walks in, signals to the guests to leave the room.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - KITCHEN -- DAY

SUPER: TWO MONTHS LATER

Dex sits at the table. Jason, a bandage wrapped around his  
head, prepares food at the stove. He lifts a frying pan from  
the stove, slides two fried eggs into Dex's plate. Dex  
scrunches up his nose.

DEX

I want them scrambled.

Jason places the pan at the sink. He sits at the table opposite Dex.

JASON  
Just try them. They'll be great.

Dex pushes the plate away, scowls at Jason.

DEX  
Mommy knows what I like.

Jason grabs the plate and a knife. He slashes the eggs up, mashes them up.

He gets up, his chair falls backwards. He slams the plate down in front of Dex.

JASON  
There, you've got scrambled eggs!

Dex's lip quivers.

JASON (CONT'D)  
I want Mommy back too, but it's not going to happen.

Dex bursts into tears. Jason pulls Dex out of the chair, hugs him tight.

JASON (CONT'D)  
I'm sorry, baby. Oh, I'm sorry.

EXT. BEACH -- DAY

Dex plays in the sand. Jason, wearing a cap, and Selina, relax on the beach, watching Dex.

SELINA  
How are you coping?

Jason shrugs.

JASON  
He doesn't really understand that she's not coming back.

Selina picks up a handful of sand, lets it run through her fingers.

SELINA  
And you?

JASON  
It's difficult.

Dex covers their feet with sand, giggles and runs off again.

JASON (CONT'D)  
Reality is setting in. I have to  
let go.

SELINA  
It'll take time.

Selina puts a hand on Jason's shoulder.

JASON  
We're going to move back with Mom.  
Dex needs a woman around.

SELINA  
I'll help when I can.

JASON  
You can't keep rushing here when I  
need you. I'm sure Dennis wants you  
at home.

Selina looks away, bites her lip.

SELINA  
Funny you should mention that.

JASON  
Uh-oh.

Selina smiles weakly.

SELINA  
Yeah, apparently he's met some  
nineteen year old that really  
understands him.

Jason grimaces.

JASON  
Sorry.

SELINA  
I'm not, he'll be back. He always  
comes back. He needs me.

Selina laughs.

SELINA (CONT'D)  
He can't afford a scar on his  
reputation. Especially now that  
he's running for senator.

Jason digs his fingers deep into the sand.

JASON  
Why do you put up with it?

SELINA  
Despite his faults, I still love  
him.

JASON  
I can understand that.

EXT. ERICA'S HOUSE - GARDEN -- DAY

SUPER: SEVEN YEARS LATER

A wedding function. Tables are lavishly laid out with  
exquisite food. ATTENDEES bustle about, eating and drinking.

Erica (67) and Selina (35) find Dex (11) in the crowd.

ERICA  
Have you seen Phyllis anywhere?

DEX  
There they are.

Dex points.

Jason (39) and Phyllis (33), in a to-die-for wedding dress,  
join Erica and Dex. Jason puts his arm around Dex.

JASON  
You were an awesome best man.

ERICA  
I hope you don't mind, Jason, but I  
want to steal your beautiful wife  
away for a while.

Erica links her arm through Phyllis', guides her away.

ERICA (CONT'D)  
I want to introduce you to some of  
my dearest friends.

Jason watches them walk away.

JASON  
I hope Phyllis knows what she's in  
for.

SELINA  
Mom adores her.

JASON  
Of course she does. This is her  
dream come true.

Dex sees someone he knows and dashes off.

DENNIS (45), tall, suave, cell phone to his ear, makes his  
way over to Selina. He ends the call, puts his arm around  
her.

DENNIS  
Sweetheart, I've just had a call  
from the office. I need to leave.  
It's an emergency.

SELINA  
Not today, Dennis!

He gives Jason an embarrassed smile.

DENNIS  
I'm sorry.

Dennis kisses Selina on the cheek, leaves in a hurry.

JASON  
Tough job.

SELINA  
There's always some crisis at the  
office.

A waiter stops to take their order.

JASON  
Just a glass of water please.

SELINA  
So you've bought a new house?

JASON  
Yeah, not far from here.

SELINA  
Mom okay with that?



JASON  
Hell, it was her idea. She seems to think Phyllis will be more comfortable in her own nest.

The waiter arrives with the water. Jason and Selina stroll away from the crowds.

JASON (CONT'D)  
You know, if only...

SELINA  
You still think about her?

JASON  
All the time.

JASON (CONT'D)  
I never told anyone, but I started attending a support group for those dealing with the loss of a partner.

SELINA  
Did it help?

Jason grins sheepishly.

JASON  
It still does.

SELINA  
Does Phyllis know?

JASON  
No. I'm not sure she'd understand.

SELINA  
You've got to start moving on, Jason. You owe it to Phyllis.

JASON  
I've married her. It's what she wanted.

Selina grabs hold of Jason's arm, forcing him to face her.

SELINA  
What about what you want?

Jason shrugs.

Phyllis comes looking for them. She puts her arm around Jason.

PHYLLIS

Your mother is getting frantic.  
Some of our guests are about to  
leave, and she couldn't find you.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - STUDY -- DAY

Jason carries in a box, places it on the desk. He opens it, removes books and packs them into the shelves. He lifts out a small case.

He walks around to his chair, sits down. Jason runs his fingers over the case, opens it. He takes out a framed photo of Kay, stares at it.

He lifts the bracelet from the case, puts it to his mouth and presses his lips to it.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - HALLWAY -- SAME

Phyllis walks past the study, looks in. She sees Jason looking at the photo and bracelet.

She moves out of sight, leans back against the wall. A tear runs down her cheek.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - STUDY -- SAME

Jason opens his top drawer, puts the photo and the bracelet in. He closes the drawer, locks it. He puts his head down on his arms.

INT. OFFICE BLOCK - JASON'S OFFICE -- DAY

Jason sits at his desk, talks on the phone. A photo of Dex on his desk.

BETH (40s), Jason's loyal secretary, knocks. Jason signals to her to enter.

JASON

(into phone)

Of course, we'll do lunch next  
week... Okay, bye.

He replaces the receiver of the phone.

BETH

I'm on my way home, but wanted to  
make sure you got this message.

Beth hands over a memo to Jason.

BETH (CONT'D)  
Some guy called Dempsey phoned,  
said he's a private investigator.  
He wants to setup an interview with  
you.

JASON  
Did he say what it's about?

BETH  
No, just that he wanted to talk to  
you as soon as possible.

Jason stares at the memo.

JASON  
This is probably to do with the  
factory that burnt down.

He shreds the paper.

JASON (CONT'D)  
If he calls again, tell him to  
speak to security.

BETH  
I did. He was quite persistent.

Jason glares at Beth.

JASON  
Beth, I don't have time for this.

BETH  
Fine.

Beth storms out of the office.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM -- NIGHT

Jason, Phyllis and Dex at the dining room table. Empty plates  
in front of them, indicating a meal has just been eaten. A  
television can be heard in the background.

PHYLLIS  
Your mom wants me to help with a  
charity event tomorrow.

JASON  
You really don't need to do  
everything she wants you to.

PHYLLIS  
Nonsense, I'm enjoying it.

DEX  
You should have seen the list of chores Gran gave me during summer break. I couldn't wait to go back to school to get some rest.

Dex rolls his eyes, laughs. He collects the plates from the table, takes them through to the kitchen.

DEX (OS) (CONT'D)  
I'll be in my room, doing homework.

JASON  
Yeah, right.

Dex ambles out of the room to the living room. Through the doorway, he stops to watch the television.

PHYLLIS  
He's a good kid.

Jason smiles proudly.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)  
I've been wondering.

Phyllis takes Jason's hand into her own.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)  
How long do we have to wait until we have one of our own?

Jason gets up from the table, walks to--

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

He plonks down into the sofa. The room looks as though it has been decorated by a professional. Everything matches, and is immaculate.

Dex still stares at the screen.

JASON  
I thought you were supposed to be doing homework.

DEX  
Just watching the end of Domestic Crimes. Reality TV is so cool.

Jason switches off the television.

JASON

Off you go. You shouldn't be watching this junk anyway.

DEX

Its not junk! This is real life, Dad.

Jason shakes his head. Dex slouches out of the room.

Phyllis joins Jason on the couch, snuggles up on the sofa next to him.

PHYLLIS

So, what do you think?

Jason frowns.

JASON

About what?

PHYLLIS

Having a baby?

JASON

I didn't know you wanted kids.

Phyllis rests her head on Jason's shoulder.

PHYLLIS

I'd love to have a baby. I was just wondering how you felt about it.

JASON

To tell you the truth. I really don't think it's a good idea right now.

Phyllis sits up straight.

PHYLLIS

Will there ever be a right time for us?

JASON

What the hell is that supposed to mean?

PHYLLIS

I saw you staring at a photo of her the other day...

JASON  
I was unpacking a box.

Jason bolts out of the seat. He stares out of the window. He turns back to face Phyllis.

JASON (CONT'D)  
Let's get one thing straight. My relationship with Kay is just that, mine. Don't ask me about it, don't pretend to understand.

PHYLLIS  
Okay, it's just... Never mind.

Phyllis fidgets with her fingers, bites her nails. Jason sits in a different couch.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)  
We're supposed to be having a house warming party on Friday.

JASON  
How come this is the first I've heard of it?

PHYLLIS  
We only decided today.

Jason spins around.

JASON  
We? Meaning you and my mother.

Phyllis nods.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- LATER

The doorbell rings. Jason opens the door to find Detective Forbes at the door.

JASON  
Detective... I haven't seen you in a long time.

DETECTIVE FORBES  
I'm sorry to come here like this, but I wanted to talk to you about something, and I thought it would be better if we spoke in person.

Jason recovers from his initial shock.

JASON

I'm sorry. It was just a surprise to see you here after all these years.

DETECTIVE FORBES

Of course.

Jason walks out onto--

EXT. JASON'S HOUSE - PORCH -- NIGHT

A table and chairs on the porch provide a sociable area. Jason indicates to a chair, and Forbes sits. Jason leans against the railing.

DETECTIVE FORBES

I was just curious as to why you've started up the investigation into your wife's death again.

Jason frowns.

JASON

What are you talking about?

Forbes raises his eyebrows in surprise.

DETECTIVE FORBES

I didn't come here to reopen old wounds, but we've had some strange calls in the last few days.

JASON

From who?

DETECTIVE FORBES

Some private investigator - Dempsey.

Forbes takes out a packet of cigarettes, offers to Jason, who declines. He lights up a smoke.

JASON

That's weird.

DETECTIVE FORBES

Weird?

JASON

I had a message today from the same guy. I thought it was about something different.

Jason pulls his fingers through his hair.

JASON (CONT'D)  
What does he want?

DETECTIVE FORBES  
Information. About your wife. He's  
requested access to our files.

JASON  
Jesus! Why now, and who?

Forbes shrugs.

DETECTIVE FORBES  
I was hoping you could tell me. Did  
she have any close relatives?

JASON  
No, she was orphaned as a baby,  
brought up by her Grandmother who  
died soon after we were married.

DETECTIVE FORBES  
Do you think you can try and get  
some information out of this  
Dempsey?

JASON  
Like what?

DETECTIVE FORBES  
Like a witness that saw her go  
swimming that night, and didn't  
come forward at the time. One never  
knows.

JASON  
I'll contact him, see what I can  
find out.

DETECTIVE FORBES  
You'll keep me posted?

JASON  
Of course.

They sit in silence for a short moment.

JASON (CONT'D)  
Strange how just when I'm getting  
my life back in order, this comes  
up.



DETECTIVE FORBES

It may be nothing.

JASON

But it may be something. I still want answers. I don't sleep nights, wondering why it happened. If only we'd got home earlier. If only I hadn't gone out for a walk.

DETECTIVE FORBES

These things can eat at a man.

JASON

Yeah.

EXT. DEMPSEY'S BUILDING -- DAY

A rundown building on a busy road. A faded sign above the door reads DEMPSEY AND SONS - PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS. Jason parks his car in front of the building, gets out. He heads toward the door.

INT. DEMPSEY'S BUILDING - RECEPTION -- DAY

A table serves as a desk. Haphazard piles of papers cover most of the desk.

The receptionist, CAROL (80s), reads a love story. She pays no attention to Jason as he enters. Jason clears his throat. She glances up.

CAROL

Can I help you?

JASON

I'm here to see Mr. Dempsey. Not sure whether it's the father or son though.

Carol giggles.

CAROL

Ain't no father left, and just one son.

She turns serious.

CAROL (CONT'D)

You have an appointment?

JASON

No. I was hoping I might get to see Mr. Dempsey while I'm in the neighborhood. The name is Jason Ruby.

CAROL

Let me check.

She rummages through the papers, finds nothing. She smiles at Jason.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Just a minute.

She gets up, and walks through a door. Jason walks around the room, looking about. Carol returns.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Mr. Dempsey can see you.

She holds the door open, and shows Jason into--

INT. DEMPSEY'S BUILDING - OFFICE -- DAY

Dempsey's desk is old, unvarnished. He sits behind it. A huge, burly man, unkempt appearance. He struggles out of his chair, reaches across the desk to shake Jason's hand. He indicates an open chair for Jason to sit.

DEMPSEY

Mr. Ruby. I was worried you weren't going to get back to me. I hate being forceful.

JASON

Really?

Dempsey grins.

DEMPSEY

It's not my nature.

JASON

What are you after? I had a visit from Detective Forbes last night.

DEMPSEY

That's good, it saves me a lot of explaining.

Jason leans forward in his chair.

JASON

Actually, it doesn't. Let's get to the point, Mr. Dempsey. Who hired you, and what the hell are you trying to achieve?

DEMPSEY

Are you sure it wasn't you that hired me?

JASON

What the...

Dempsey breaks into a fit of laughter. He notices that Jason isn't amused.

DEMPSEY

Trying to break the ice, here.

Jason clenches his teeth together.

JASON

Let's try this again. Who hired you?

DEMPSEY

Can't say.

JASON

Is this some kind of joke?

DEMPSEY

I'm not laughing, am I? I've been hired to find out what really happened to Mrs. Ruby on the night of her disappearance. The person who hired me shall remain confidential.

Jason bangs his fist down on the desk, startling Dempsey.

JASON

Listen, asshole. It's taken seven years to come to terms with these facts: That she was drunk and drowned. And now, some prick like you wants to reopen all those wounds.

Dempsey picks up a pen, takes notes.

DEMPSEY

Do you know for certain she drowned?

JASON  
Don't do this.

DEMPSEY  
Where were you the night it  
happened?

JASON  
At a party, then home! For Christ's  
sake!

DEMPSEY  
What happened when you got home?

JASON  
She was gone! I got into bed and  
she was gone.

DEMPSEY  
Hah, but there's missing pieces.

Jason gets up, makes for the door.

DEMPSEY (CONT'D)  
You still having black-outs, Mr.  
Ruby?

JASON  
How the fuck do you know about  
that?

Dempsey smirks. Jason reaches across the desk, grabs hold of  
Dempsey's shirt. He slams his fist into the chair next to  
Dempsey's face.

JASON (CONT'D)  
Stay out of my way! Do you  
understand me?

DEMPSEY  
No need to be so hostile, Mr. Ruby.  
I thought we were supposed to be on  
the same side here. Am I mistaken?

Jason barges out of the office, slams the door.

INT. OFFICE BLOCK - JASON'S OFFICE -- DAY

Jason sits behind his desk, Beth in a chair across the desk.

BETH  
Your wife phoned. Wanted to remind  
you of the party tonight.

JASON

Please phone her and tell her I'll be late.

BETH

Jason, it's none of my business...

JASON

You're right, it is none of your business.

Jason searches through his drawers, notices Beth still sitting there.

JASON (CONT'D)

I know you're just trying to help.

BETH

You just don't seem yourself.

JASON

I'm not. Look, don't worry about it, I'll phone Phyllis myself.

Beth walks to the door, turns back.

BETH

She's a good woman, Jason. Give her a chance.

Beth leaves, closing the door quietly. Jason lifts the phone receiver, dials.

JASON

(into receiver)

Detective?

(beat)

We need to talk.

INT. OFFICE BLOCK - BASEMENT PARKING -- DAY

Late afternoon. EMPLOYEES make their way to their cars, drive out the basement. Jason approaches his car, climbs in.

INT. JASON'S CAR -- DAY

Jason pulls out his cell phone. No signal. He throws it into the side pocket of the door. He starts the car, drives toward the exit.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Party preparations going on. CATERERS move in and out. Phyllis shows them where to put everything.

Dex, carrying a tray of glasses, stops in front of the television to watch. Erica walks in.

ERICA

Dex, we need those glasses outside.

DEX

Coming, Gran. I just want to see what's happening on the TV.

Erica continues to the kitchen.

INSERT TELEVISION SCREEN

A mob of CAMERAMEN, BODY GUARDS, and REPORTERS gather behind the presenter, MICHAEL HUGHES, who is standing on a street corner.

HUGHES

(into microphone)

Today, live, we bring you the story of a woman who has been hiding for seven years. She is about to face her husband, who she believes, tried to murder her. She's going to face him for the first time.

EXT. OFFICE BLOCK - STREET -- SAME

The crowd is gathered outside the building. Jason's car drives up to the basement exit. His window rolls down, he extends his arm to swipe his card for the boom to open. One of the crowd signals to Hughes. He approaches Jason's car. The crowd gathers around the car, blocking Jason's way.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- SAME

Dex stares at the screen, watching Jason.

DEX

Gran?

Erica runs into the room, a plate of snacks in her hand.

Dex indicates to the screen. Erica stares.

ERICA  
What's going on?

DEX  
Dunno.

EXT. OFFICE BLOCK - STREET -- SAME

Hughes knocks on the driver window. Jason's window slides open.

HUGHES  
Jason Ruby?

JASON  
Yeah. What the hell's going on here?

HUGHES  
You may want to step out of your car.

People slap the hood of the car.

JASON  
One more person touches my car, and I'll run them over.

HUGHES  
Is that the way you resolve your problems, Mr. Ruby?

With violence. The crowd goes wild. Jason climbs out of his car.

JASON  
You obviously have the wrong person.

HUGHES  
We have someone here who has positively identified you.

JASON  
Identified me for what?

Jason glances around the crowd.

KAY (O.S.)  
Hello, Jase.

Jason swings around, coming face-to-face with Kay (35).

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- SAME

INSERT TELEVISION SCREEN

A close-up of Kay.

END INSERT

Erica drops the plate, which shatters into pieces. She clasps her hands over her mouth.

ERICA

My god!

Phyllis wanders in.

PHYLLIS

Erica, are you okay?

DEX

Who is that?

Phyllis glances at the television.

PHYLLIS

It can't be.

Erica picks up the phone, dials.

ERICA

(into the phone)

Detective Forbes, please.

EXT. OFFICE BLOCK - STREET -- SAME

Jason stares at Kay.

KAY

Surprise!

JASON

Who the hell are you?

HUGHES

Don't you recognize your wife, Mr. Ruby?

JASON

My wife died seven years ago.

Jason stumbles backwards, confused.



KAY  
You would know, wouldn't you?

JASON  
My wife drowned in the sea. No sign  
of her anywhere.

KAY  
All traces gone.

Jason keeps his eyes on Kay.

JASON  
The police confirmed she must have  
drowned.

KAY  
Wrong! I'm alive. Not exactly the  
way you planned it, is it now?

JASON  
I have no idea what you are talking  
about.

HUGHES  
Are you saying that you had nothing  
to do with your wife's  
disappearance?

JASON  
What the...?

The crowd gasps.

JASON (CONT'D)  
No!

Police cars arrive on the scene.

Detective Forbes and other POLICEMEN break up the crowd.  
Forbes helps Jason get to his car.

DETECTIVE FORBES  
Get out of here. Don't answer any  
questions from reporters or anyone  
else until you and I have spoken.

Jason fumbles his way into his car. He races off.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Erica and Phyllis keep each other company.

Phyllis' eyes are red and puffy. Erica paces the room, smoking.

Untouched party food stands around. Jason staggers in. Phyllis bursts into tears again.

ERICA  
What the hell was that about?

JASON  
What? You know?

ERICA  
The whole world knows by now.

Erica points at the television.

ERICA (CONT'D)  
The television show. It was live.

Jason rubs his temples.

JASON  
This is insane!

ERICA  
Is it her?

JASON  
It can't be, Mother. I think  
someone is trying to play a cruel,  
sick joke on us.

Phyllis calms down.

PHYLLIS  
I can't believe this is happening.

JASON  
Where's Dex?

ERICA  
In his room.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - DEX'S ROOM -- NIGHT

Planets and astronomy adorn the walls, bedding and curtains. Dex lies on his bed, stares at the ceiling.

A photo of Kay rests on the bedside table. A knock on the door, Jason opens it.

JASON  
Can I come in?

DEX  
Whatever.

JASON  
You okay?

DEX  
I guess.

JASON  
Listen, kiddo, I don't know what's  
going on, but I promise I'm going  
to find out.

Jason sits down on the bed.

DEX  
All those things she said. I don't  
understand.

JASON  
Neither do I.

Dex looks at the photograph.

DEX  
Is she my mom?

JASON  
I doubt it.

DEX  
If she is, why did she wait so long  
to say she was alive?

JASON  
It makes no sense. I promise I'll  
find out though.

Dex sits up straight.

DEX  
Phyllis is really upset, Dad.

JASON  
Don't you worry about that, okay?

DEX  
Okay.

JASON  
Get some sleep.

Jason walks to the door.

DEX  
Dad?

JASON  
Yeah.

DEX  
I don't remember her.

JASON  
She was nothing like that woman.  
She was caring, and fun. She loved  
you like crazy.

Jason switches off the light.

JASON (CONT'D)  
Good night.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Jason finds Phyllis alone.

JASON  
Where's my mother?

PHYLLIS  
She left. She thought maybe we  
needed some time alone to talk.

Jason's cell phone rings. He searches his pockets, pulls it out.

JASON  
(into phone)  
Hello?... Detective.

Phyllis clears up some of the snacks.

JASON (CONT'D)  
(into phone)  
Yeah, I'll come see you first thing  
in the morning.

Jason ends the call.

PHYLLIS  
Do you want me to go with you?

JASON

I need to deal with this on my own.

Jason leaves the room.

PHYLLIS

Okay.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - FORBES' OFFICE -- DAY

The office is a nest of confusion. Files lay open, papers stacked in huge piles. Boxes with more papers on the floor.

Jason sits on a table next to Forbes' desk. Forbes searches through some files. He finds one, flips it open on the desk.

JASON

Have you heard anything more about this woman that says she's Kay?

DETECTIVE FORBES

Yeah. But you're not going to like it.

Forbes throws a piece of paper across the desk to Jason. Jason picks it up, reads through it.

JASON

This is the biggest load of bull-shit.

DETECTIVE FORBES

She applied for the court order about two hours before the show.

Jason jumps off the table, rips up the paper.

DETECTIVE FORBES (CONT'D)

I wouldn't advise you do that.

JASON

I want to meet with her.

DETECTIVE FORBES

The court order prohibits you from making any contact with her.

Jason throws his arms up in the air.

JASON

I'm supposed to just sit back and let her ruin my life!

Jason rubs his forehead.

JASON (CONT'D)  
What happens now?

DETECTIVE FORBES  
We'll be running her fingerprints.  
We need to first establish that she  
is who she says she is.

JASON  
When?

DETECTIVE FORBES  
I'll let you know when we have the  
results.

Forbes leans back in his chair, looks at Jason with concern.

DETECTIVE FORBES (CONT'D)  
Have you actually considered that  
this woman may really be your wife?

Jason backs towards the door.

JASON  
I need to see her.

DETECTIVE FORBES  
Don't do anything stupid.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - RECEPTION -- DAY

A newspaper lies on a table. Jason picks it up.

INSERT NEWSPAPER

The headlines read: MURDERED WIFE BACK FROM THE DEAD.

END INSERT

Jason crumples down onto a bench, his head in his hands.

Forbes watches through his office door.

EXT. GAS STATION -- DAY

A modern station, with a convenience store. Jason's car pulls  
up next to a pump. He climbs out.

INT. GAS STATION - CONVENIENCE STORE -- DAY

A TEENAGER serves from behind the counter.

An ELDERLY COUPLE at the counter. The OLD LADY gasps as Jason enters.

OLD LADY  
(to her husband)  
That's that man that was on  
Domestic Crimes last night.  
(to Jason)  
Shame on you.

The OLD MAN ushers his wife out of the store.

OLD MAN  
Leave him alone, dear. You don't  
know the circumstances.

The Old man winks at Jason. Jason stares after them, stunned.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Jason walks in, trips over two suitcases at the door. He lifts himself off the ground, walks through to

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Phyllis stuffs clothes into a bag.

JASON  
What is going on?

PHYLLIS  
I'm taking your advice. What's  
going on has nothing to do with me,  
so I'm letting you deal with this  
yourself.

JASON  
Just like that, huh?

PHYLLIS  
I'm not the one who's walking out.

Phyllis walks over to Jason, looks straight at him.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)

I love you, Jason. I can handle just about anything, if I know you'll be here. But you're not. I don't think you ever will be.

Phyllis returns to the closet, takes out a shirt, folds it.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)

Our marriage was in trouble before this fiasco. I can't imagine what it will be like now.

JASON

What do expect me to say to you?

PHYLLIS

I don't want you to say anything.

JASON

I have enough on my plate without having to deal with your insecurities as well.

Phyllis slams the closet door closed.

PHYLLIS

You've never dealt with us, Jason! I'm just making things easier for you.

JASON

What about Dex?

PHYLLIS

He's with your mother.

Jason grabs hold of Phyllis' arm. He swings her around to face him.

JASON

He needs you now.

PHYLLIS

No, he needs you now.

Phyllis hugs Jason, zips the bag closed, leaves.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Jason sleeps on the couch. The television blares. Constant knocking at the door.



Jason wakes, jumps up and opens the door, lets Forbes in.  
Forbes points at the screen.

FORBES  
I wanted to warn you before the  
show.

Jason turns up the volume.

INSERT TELEVISION SCREEN

The presenter, Michael Hughes, in a studio.

HUGHES  
An update on the Ruby story.  
Fingerprints today confirmed that  
it is indeed Mrs. Ruby, and she has  
confirmed that she will be making a  
case against her husband? Ex? Jason  
Ruby.

END INSERT

Jason switches off the TV.

JASON  
Murder! I don't believe this. I  
need to speak to her.

Forbes shakes his head.

FORBES  
You can't afford to become ruthless  
now. The whole world's watching  
you.

INT. DEMPSEY'S BUILDING - RECEPTION -- DAY

Carol files her nails.

Jason marches in, bangs on her desk. Carol jumps, drops the  
nail file.

JASON  
I need to see Dempsey.

CAROL  
He's busy.

Jason brushes past her, yanks open Dempsey's office door.

INT. DEMPSEY'S BUILDING - OFFICE -- DAY

Dempsey and Kay on opposites sides of the desk. Jason barges in.

KAY

Get out!

Dempsey pushes himself out of the chair, approaches Jason.

DEMPSEY

You need to leave. Jason brushes past him.

JASON

Please just tell me what is going on?

Kay picks up the phone, dials, puts the phone to her ear.

JASON (CONT'D)

Where have you been? What happened?

KAY

(into phone)

Detective...

Jason grabs the phone out of Kay's hand, slams it down. He stares at Kay.

Dempsey shoves Jason out of the office.

DEMPSEY

You are violating your court order. Stay away from my client.

Dempsey shuts the door, locks it.

INT. DEMPSEY'S BUILDING - RECEPTION -- DAY

Jason punches the door, hurting his fist. Carol giggles. Jason glares at her, she continues filing her nails.

JASON

You want to make some extra cash?

Carol leans forward.

CAROL

How much?

EXT. DEMPSEY'S BUILDING -- NIGHT

Jason waits across the road from the building in his car.  
Dempsey leaves.

Once he is out of sight, Carol exits the building, locks the door. She glances around, crosses the street.

Carol climbs into Jason's car.

INT. JASON'S CAR -- NIGHT

Carol hands Jason a piece of paper.

CAROL  
It's her address.

Jason stares at the paper. Carol nudges him.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Where's my money?

Jason pulls an envelope from his pocket, hands it to Carol.  
She opens the envelope, checks the contents.

CAROL (CONT'D)  
Don't come looking for me. I have a  
feeling I may be off work for a  
while.

EXT. KAY'S CABIN -- NIGHT

A small log cabin hidden on the outskirts of a forest. A couple of lights are on inside.

Jason's car, headlights switched off, pulls up the long, dark driveway. It stops in the shadows.

INT. JASON'S CAR -- NIGHT

Jason watches Kay's cabin through the windshield.

EXT. KAY'S CABIN -- NIGHT

Kay walks out, empties the rubbish. She goes back inside.

Jason clambers out of his car, makes his way to the cabin.  
The door is unlocked. He opens it, and finds himself in

INT. KAY'S CABIN - KITCHEN -- NIGHT

An old-fashioned kitchen containing the bare minimum. Kay washes dishes. She startles as Jason enters.

KAY

Shit!

Kay grabs a bread knife, holds it up in front of her.

KAY (CONT'D)

How the hell did you find me here?

Jason moves towards her.

JASON

I just want to talk. Now put the knife down.

Kay stabs at Jason, puncturing his arm, causing it to bleed. Jason grabs the knife from her.

Terrified, Kay backs up against the wall. Seeing how terrified she is, Jason puts the knife on the counter, moves away. He presses down on the cut on his arm.

JASON (CONT'D)

Kay, I'm not going to hurt you. I won't come any closer. I just want some answers.

Kay stares at him.

JASON (CONT'D)

Okay?

She nods.

JASON (CONT'D)

In case you were wondering, Dex is fine. He's a bit shaken by what's happening.

Kay whimpers, a tear runs down her cheek.

JASON (CONT'D)

Where have you been all these years?

KAY

Here. I've lived here all this time.

Jason glances around.

JASON

It's nice. It's... you.

He looks at Kay, trying to control his emotions.

JASON (CONT'D)

Why has it taken you so long to come out of hiding?

KAY

I was afraid you'd find me.

JASON

That's ridiculous. And anyway, if you're so terrified of me, what made you change your mind?

KAY

I don't want that bitch Phyllis bringing up my kid. Anyway, I'm clean now. I haven't touched a drink in over a year. I didn't want Dex to know about my drinking. Or the affair.

JASON

What affair? What are you talking about?

Kay gives a cynical laugh.

KAY

Now you're going to pretend you didn't know.

Jason shakes his head.

KAY (CONT'D)

Oh come on, Jase! That night, the kidnapping, the beatings, leaving me for dead. You're telling me you had nothing to do with it? You knew I was too drunk to be able to defend myself against those thugs.

JASON

I had nothing to do with whatever it was that happened.

KAY

They told me it was my punishment for cheating.

JASON  
Cheating? They?

KAY  
I don't blame you for being mad at me, but murder is going a bit too far.

JASON  
There's some mistake, Kay.

KAY  
I know your mother told you about it that night.

Kay darts past Jason, holds her finger on an emergency button, ready to press it.

JASON  
I'll leave.

Jason backs up to the door, runs out.

EXT. KAY'S CABIN -- NIGHT

The alarm sounds. Jason runs to his car, climbs in, reverses out of the driveway, and skids away.

INT. ERICA'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE -- NIGHT

A lavish stairway leads down to the front door. Consistent pounding on the door.

Erica, dressed in a nightgown, descends the stairs, looks through the peephole in the door. She opens.

Jason pushes past her, into the house. Erica closes the door, follows Jason into--

INT. ERICA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Antique furniture, and only the best finishes. Jason turns to Erica.

JASON  
I've seen her.

ERICA  
Is it her?

Erica lights a cigarette.

JASON

I think so.

ERICA

What does she want?

JASON

I'm not sure yet. I went looking for her.

Erica rolls her eyes.

ERICA

If you have any intentions of getting Phyllis back, I'd advise you to stay away from that bitch.

JASON

Mother, wake up! She's accusing me of murder. She thinks I tried to kill her.

ERICA

She always was a drama queen.

Jason grabs Erica by the shoulders.

JASON

She said something about you telling me about her cheating.

ERICA

I don't know what you're talking about.

JASON

There isn't time for games, Mother.

Erica stubs out the cigarette.

ERICA

I tried to warn you about her. You wouldn't listen.

Erica paces around the room. Jason keeps his eyes on her.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I found out that she was having an affair, all right.

Jason rubs his forehead.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Oh come on, Jason! You must have known. She was trouble from the start.

Jason slumps into a chair.

JASON

She thinks you told me about the affair.

ERICA

That's ridiculous.

JASON

Did I know about the affair? I was ill...

Erica sits beside Jason.

JASON (CONT'D)

Did you tell me about it?

Erica stares down at her hands.

ERICA

Of course not.

An awkward silence.

INT. DOCTOR'S ROOM -- DAY

Doctor sits behind his desk. A disheveled-looking Jason sits across from him.

JASON

Doctor, I need to know the affects the brain tumor had on my memory.

DOCTOR

I thought we'd been over this before.

JASON

Something really important happened, and I'm worried that I don't remember anything about it.

DOCTOR

That's possible. Memory loss is very common.

Jason nods. The doctor strums his fingers on the desk.



DOCTOR (CONT'D)  
Jason, I saw the program on  
television.

JASON  
You and the rest of the world.

DOCTOR  
I was also contacted by some  
Private Investigator wanting to  
know about your black-outs. I told  
him the information was  
confidential.

JASON  
Thank you.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - FORBES' OFFICE -- DAY

Forbes works at his desk. Jason barges in.

JASON  
She's right. I think I did it.

Forbes gets up, shuts the door.

FORBES  
Let's just calm down here. First of  
all, what the hell were you  
thinking going over there last  
night?

JASON  
I needed to talk to her.

Forbes crosses his arms.

FORBES  
You had no right. The only reason  
you're not in jail already is  
because she decided to not press  
charges for now.

JASON  
I think--

Forbes holds up a hand.

FORBES  
Don't say another word. Anything  
you tell me, I'll be forced to use  
against you.

JASON

But...

FORBES

Take my advice. Go and find yourself a lawyer. Tell him about it.

Jason drops his head.

JASON

Why are you trying to help me?

FORBES

I was there seven years ago. I saw your misery.

Forbes pats Jason's shoulder.

FORBES (CONT'D)

I lost my wife too, Mr. Ruby. Besides, I've dealt with murderers. For what it's worth, you don't fit the profile.

Forbes opens the office the door.

FORBES (CONT'D)

You have a kid who needs you right now. Go and find a lawyer.

Jason gets up.

FORBES (CONT'D)

And stay away from her.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

A knock at the door. Jason opens to find Hughes and his camera crew outside.

HUGHES

Mr. Ruby, we wanted to hear your comments now that you know that it is indeed your wife.

JASON

I have a comment for you.

Jason punches Hughes in the face. Blood spurts from his nose.

JASON (CONT'D)

Fuck off!

Jason slams the door closed, leans back against it, rather pleased with himself.

INT. SENATOR'S BUILDING - RECEPTION -- DAY

PEOPLE bustle in and out. Cell phones ring, people chattering.

Jason trudges in, presses a button for the elevator. The doors open, he gets in.

As the doors close, he sees Selina rush by. She looks upset. The doors close before Jason can call her.

INT. SENATOR'S BUILDING - SECRETARY'S DESK -- DAY

No-one at the desk. A computer rests on one side. Jason raps lightly on the door behind the desk. No answer. He opens the door.

INT. SENATOR'S BUILDING - DENNIS' OFFICE -- DAY

Dennis is in the office with his secretary, CLARA (20), a voluptuous, sexy blond. They kiss and fondle each other, oblivious to Jason.

INT. SENATOR'S BUILDING - SECRETARY'S DESK -- DAY

Jason pulls the door closed.

JASON

Shit!

He ponders for a moment, bangs loudly on the door, enters.

INT. SENATOR'S BUILDING - DENNIS' OFFICE -- DAY

Dennis and Clara scramble away from each other, straighten their clothes.

DENNIS

Jason!

Dennis nods to Clara.

DENNIS (CONT'D)  
That'll be all. Thank you, Clara.

The secretary lowers her head, brushes past Jason as she leaves the room.

JASON  
Having fun?

DENNIS  
It's not what...

Jason grabs hold of Dennis' shirt. Pushes him backwards.

JASON  
Not what? Not what it seems. Bullshit!

Dennis stumbles, gains his footing.

DENNIS  
Get a hold of yourself!

Jason pushes Dennis again.

JASON  
I have watched you slowly destroy my sister's pride for years now. Maybe it's time the newspapers got wind of your little obsession with younger women.

Dennis picks up his phone.

DENNIS  
I'm calling security.

Jason grabs the phone from his hand, slams it down.

JASON  
You're trying my patience, Dennis.

Jason watches Dennis, runs his hand along the edge of the desk.

JASON (CONT'D)  
I'm sure you're aware of the accusations that have been made against me on television.

Jason picks up a letter opener, twists it through his fingers.

JASON (CONT'D)  
You may want to play nice with me.  
I'm feeling a little...

Jason points the letter opener at Dennis' chest.

JASON (CONT'D)  
...edgy.

Dennis backs away.

DENNIS  
What do you want?

Jason flops into a chair.

JASON  
I need some favors. Firstly, I want  
the television program to get off  
my back.

DENNIS  
That's impossible.

Jason bangs his fist down on the desk.

JASON  
You're the senator. Nothing is  
impossible.

Dennis nods.

DENNIS  
I'll do what I can.

JASON  
That's not all. I need a lawyer.  
The best.

DENNIS  
I'll make some calls.

Jason crosses his legs, gets comfortable.

JASON  
I'll wait.

INT. SENATOR'S BUILDING - SECRETARY'S DESK -- LATER

Clara types furiously on her computer. She looks up as Jason  
walks out, looks away.

Jason bangs down on her desk. Clara jumps and screams. Dennis runs out of his office.

DENNIS

Have you lost your mind, Jason?

Jason grins at them.

JASON

Maybe, just maybe.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE -- DAY

A spacious, flashy office. Leather chairs, modern desk. The room reeks of success.

Jason sits in front of the desk. The LAWYER (40s) relaxes on the edge of his desk.

LAWYER

Let me get this straight. Your wife, who you thought drowned seven years ago, has reappeared, accusing you of trying to murder her.

JASON

Yes.

LAWYER

You think you she may be right, but you don't remember it because of a brain tumor you had?

Jason nods.

LAWYER (CONT'D)

My first bit of advice is. Keep these thoughts to yourself. What reason would you have had to murder your wife?

JASON

It seems my wife was having an affair.

The lawyer takes a seat behind his desk, makes notes.

JASON (CONT'D)

Kay thinks my mother told me about it the night she went missing.

LAWYER

And did she?

JASON  
My mother claims she didn't.

The lawyer shakes his head.

LAWYER  
I get the feeling you don't believe her.

JASON  
I don't know what to believe any more. She may be trying to protect me. When I was ill, I had a couple of black-outs. There's a lot I seem to not remember.

LAWYER  
You never suspected your wife of having an affair?

JASON  
Not that I can remember. She was an alcoholic though. Her behavior was often erratic.

LAWYER  
Was she drunk the night in question?

Jason sighs.

JASON  
Yes, she was.

LAWYER  
Good. That counts in our favor.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Selina gives Jason a hug. She hands him a bag of take-away food.

SELINA  
I thought I'd grab you something to eat on my way here.

JASON  
Thanks.

Jason opens the bag, takes the food out.

SELINA  
I got a call from Kay today.

Jason puts the food on a table.

JASON  
You're kidding. What did she want?

SELINA  
She wants to see Dex.

JASON  
No way.

SELINA  
I think it might be a good idea.

JASON  
I need to speak to him about it.  
Did she say when or how?

SELINA  
Yeah, she asked if I'd bring him to  
her.

Jason walks over to a window, looks out, his back to Selina.

JASON  
Did you know she was having an  
affair?

SELINA  
Oh my goodness, no! I'm so sorry,  
Jason.

Jason pours two drinks, hands one to Selina.

They walk out to--

EXT. JASON'S HOUSE - PORCH -- NIGHT

They both sit.

JASON  
I saw you earlier on today. At  
Dennis' office.

Selina looks away, embarrassed.

SELINA  
I was looking for him, but he  
wasn't there.

JASON  
He was in his office when I got  
there.



Selina twirls her drink with her finger. She smiles at Jason.

SELINA

I guess I must have just missed him  
then.

Jason gives Selina a puzzled look.

JASON

I guess.

Selina takes a sip of her drink.

SELINA

What were you doing there?

JASON

I needed a couple of favors from  
the Senator.

INT. ERICA'S HOUSE - ENTRANCE -- DAY

Erica opens the door, lets Jason in.

ERICA

He's refusing to go to school.

JASON

Where is he?

ERICA

In the living room.

Erica puts a hand on Jason's arm.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Personally, I think this whole  
business with Kay is just upsetting  
him. I've always said she was bad  
news.

JASON

I'd appreciate it if you'd keep  
from bad-mouthing Kay when Dex is  
around.

Erica stomps off.

INT. ERICA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

The television blares. The curtains are drawn, so that the  
room is dark.

Dex lies sprawled out on a couch.

JASON  
Looks like you're having fun.

Dex glances at Jason, returns his attention to the television.

DEX  
Yeah.

JASON  
You're supposed to be at school.

DEX  
I'm not feeling good.

Jason switches off the television.

DEX (CONT'D)  
Aw, come on.

Jason opens the curtains.

JASON  
What's going on, kiddo?

DEX  
Nothing.

Jason sits on the armrest of a chair.

JASON  
Tell me the real reason you're not at school.

DEX  
The kids are making fun of us.  
Calling you a murderer.

Jason sits next to Dex, puts his arm around him. Dex pulls away.

JASON  
I know this must all seem very confusing to you.

DEX  
Not at all, Dad. We're just a normal, happy family.

JASON  
Listen to me! You're not the only one having to deal with this.

Dex's eyes well up with tears.

JASON (CONT'D)  
Oh, Dex! I'm sorry.

Erica runs into the room. She wraps her arms around Dex. He snuffles, pulls away, stops crying.

JASON (CONT'D)  
Your mother wants to see you.

ERICA  
Over my dead body.

Jason holds his hand up to silence Erica.

JASON  
Mother, please stay out of this.

DEX  
I don't want to see her.

ERICA  
You don't have to.

JASON  
The court might say you do.

Dex wipes his nose.

DEX  
Do you want me to see her, Dad?

JASON  
I think maybe you should. She is your mother after all.

DEX  
If I decide to go, will you go with me?

JASON  
I'm not allowed. But Selina will.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Jason flips through television channels, stops at one.

INSERT TELEVISION SCREEN

Michael Hughes is led from his house, handcuffed, by two POLICEMEN.

Another POLICEMAN carries a file and a computer from the house.

NEWS BROADCASTER (V.O.)  
Michael Hughes, presenter of the television program, Domestic Crimes, was arrested at his house today, for the illegal possession of child pornography.

ENT INSERT

Jason smiles.

JASON  
A dose of your own medicine.

Jason switches off the television.

INT. LAWYER'S OFFICE -- DAY

Jason waits on his own. He picks up a newspaper laying on the desk. He pages through it, stops as he notices something.

INSERT NEWSPAPER

A photograph of Dennis' secretary, Clara on the front page with the headline: "YOUNG WOMAN KILLED IN HORRIFIC MOTOR ACCIDENT".

END INSERT

JASON  
Christ!

The lawyer arrives, closes the door.

LAWYER  
Is anything wrong?

Jason folds up the newspaper, puts it back.

JASON  
No, it's just someone I saw yesterday. She was killed in an accident.

LAWYER  
Someone close to you?

JASON  
No, I didn't know her at all.

The lawyer takes a seat behind his desk.

LAWYER

What can I help with today?

JASON

Kay has requested to see my son...  
our son. If he decides he doesn't  
want to go, can she force him?

LAWYER

If she goes to court, and they  
decide to grant her request, then  
yes. My suggestion is to be as  
cooperative as possible.

The lawyer pulls out a file, pages through it, grabs a pen.

LAWYER (CONT'D)

I need some information about Kay.  
Enemies, did she have any?

Jason laughs aloud.

JASON

Kay had a way of pissing off a lot  
of people.

He grows serious.

JASON (CONT'D)

Especially when she was drunk.  
Which was most of the time.

LAWYER

Anyone specific?

JASON

My mother, for one.

The lawyer gives him a questioning look.

JASON (CONT'D)

Oh no. She was pretty adamant that  
she had nothing to do with this.  
She's more bark than bite.

LAWYER

But she knew about the affair?

Jason paces the room, restlessly.

JASON

She wouldn't do anything like this.

LAWYER

I need to try and find out what happened, regardless. If there's a trial, all of this will come out in court anyway. You need to be ready, and so do the rest of your family and friends.

JASON

Whatever happens, I want my son kept out of this.

LAWYER

I'll do my best.

The lawyer makes some notes.

LAWYER (CONT'D)

There's one thing that we haven't discussed yet. The affair your wife was having.

Jason runs his fingers through his hair.

JASON

Yeah.

LAWYER

Do you know who it was?

JASON

Actually, no.

LAWYER

You need to try and find out.

INT. ERICA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Erica pours tea for herself and Jason.

ERICA

I don't understand why you're needing a lawyer. You've done nothing wrong.

JASON

I need to be prepared, Mother. Kay may even decide she wants custody of Dex.

ERICA

That would be typical.

JASON

I haven't come here to argue about Kay. I need to know something.

Erica sips her tea.

JASON (CONT'D)

Do you know who Kay was having an affair with?

Erica spills her tea over herself.

ERICA

Oh!

Erica jumps up.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I need to find a cloth to clean this up.

Jason takes the cup and saucer from Erica, puts it down on the table.

JASON

You do know, don't you?

Erica's eyes fill with tears, shakes her head.

ERICA

No.

Jason covers her hands with his own.

JASON

This is important. I need to know.

Erica runs from the room, sobbing.

JASON (CONT'D)

Mother!

Jason collapses into a chair.

Phyllis and Dex walk in.

PHYLLIS

Jason?

He looks up.

JASON

I didn't expect to see you here.

PHYLLIS  
Mom asked me to pick Dex up from  
school.

JASON  
Oh, thank you.

DEX  
Dad, I chatted to Phyllis about  
seeing Mom. She thinks I should go.

Jason looks from Dex to Phyllis.

JASON  
Okay, that's good. Your mother will  
be glad.

DEX  
I'm starved. I need to grab  
something to eat.

Dex heads for the kitchen. Phyllis sits across from Jason.

PHYLLIS  
How are you?

JASON  
Tired. Confused. You?

PHYLLIS  
I miss you.

JASON  
Where are you staying?

PHYLLIS  
My old place.

Jason leans closer to Phyllis.

JASON  
I need a favor.

PHYLLIS  
I'll help if I can.

JASON  
I need you to find out from my  
mother who Kay was having an affair  
with.

Phyllis stares at Jason in disbelief.



PHYLLIS

You've got to be kidding. I cannot believe you would ask me something like that.

Phyllis shakes her head, moves away from Jason.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)

You are undoubtedly the most self-centered person I know. I'm sorry, Jason, but you've gone too far this time.

Phyllis stomps out of the room.

EXT. ERICA'S HOUSE - GARDEN -- DAY

Jason and Selina stroll through the rose gardens.

SELINA

I'll be taking Dex to see Kay tomorrow.

JASON

It's not going to be easy. Selina stops to smell a rose, picks one.

JASON (CONT'D)

Did you see the newspapers yesterday?

Selina pricks her finger on a thorn.

SELINA

No, why?

JASON

When I was in Dennis' office two days ago, I saw his secretary. There was an article in the newspaper yesterday that she was killed in a car accident.

Selina sucks her sore finger.

SELINA

Dennis didn't mention it to me.

JASON

I just wondered.

Selina throws down the rose.

SELINA

Well, if you're so curious about  
it, why don't you ask him yourself?

Selina walks on.

Jason runs after her.

JASON

Hey, I was just wondering.

Selina bursts into tears.

SELINA

Yes, it was his latest lover.

JASON

So you did see them together  
yesterday at the office?

SELINA

I should be used to it by now.

JASON

I'm sorry.

Jason puts his arm around Selina.

JASON (CONT'D)

If it's any consolation I gave both  
of them a hard time.

Dex runs out of the house. He shouts to Jason.

DEX

Come quick. Something's wrong with  
Gran.

Jason races to the house.

INT. ERICA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Erica sits on the floor, a box of photographs in front of  
her. Torn photographs lie scattered on the floor. Jason picks  
one up.

INSERT PHOTOGRAPH

A ripped picture of Kay.

END INSERT

Selina runs in, kneels on the ground next to Kay.

SELINA

Mom?

Erica chuckles.

ERICA

That bitch thought she had it all worked out.

Erica grabs another photo of Kay, tears it, throws it on the floor.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I showed her, didn't I?

Jason turns to Dex.

JASON

Go to your room.

Dex just stares at Erica. Jason gives him a shove.

JASON (CONT'D)

Go! Now!

Dex leaves.

Jason lifts Erica onto her feet.

JASON (CONT'D)

What are you talking about?

ERICA

Come now, Jason. You must know. It was me that got rid of Kay.

Selina gasps.

ERICA (CONT'D)

I warned her, but she just continued to make a fool of you.

Erica picks up a couple of photos, rips them all.

ERICA (CONT'D)

Drinking and whoring. Who the hell did she think she was? You don't mess with the Ruby's, and get away with it.

She starts to hyperventilate.

Jason turns to Selina.

JASON  
Get a doctor. Quick.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM -- NIGHT

Dex sleeps with his head on Selina's shoulder.

Jason gets coffee from a vending machine.

A DOCTOR joins them.

DOCTOR  
We've sedated your mother. It appears she's had a nervous breakdown.

JASON  
She went crazy. Talking a lot of nonsense.

SELINA  
Will she be alright?

DOCTOR  
Time will tell. She's sleeping now. I'd suggest you all go home and get some rest as well.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Phyllis finds Jason sleeping on the couch. She shakes him gently. Jason wakes, sits up.

JASON  
You're the last person I expected to see here.

PHYLLIS  
I heard about your mother. I've been trying to phone you, but your phone just rings. How's she doing?

JASON  
We'll find out soon enough.

Phyllis reaches out to touch Jason, pulls her hand back.

PHYLLIS  
What happened?

JASON

She kept saying she was the one that tried to kill Kay. I don't know what to make of it all.

Phyllis taps the armrest, sighs.

PHYLLIS

After we spoke yesterday, I went to check on your mother. I asked her about the affair that Kay had.

JASON

And?

PHYLLIS

I couldn't sleep last night thinking about what she told me.

JASON

God damn it, Phyllis. Just tell me.

PHYLLIS

Apparently Kay was having an affair with Dennis.

Jason jumps up.

JASON

This is getting ridiculous.

Phyllis shakes her head.

PHYLLIS

I'm sorry, Jason. I didn't come here to upset you. You asked me to find out.

JASON

I guess it's real easy to come here and say stuff like this, especially now that I can't ask my mother if it's true.

Phyllis stands up, tears in her eyes.

PHYLLIS

Don't take it out on the wrong person.

JASON

Really? You expect me to believe this crap?

PHYLLIS

As a matter of fact, I feel like a fool for coming here at all.

Phyllis heads for the door.

JASON

What the hell is that supposed to mean?

Phyllis swings around to face Jason again.

PHYLLIS

All you can think about is yourself and your precious Kay.

Phyllis flings open the door, storms out.

EXT. JASON'S HOUSE - PORCH -- DAY

Phyllis nearly bumps into Detective Forbes.

FORBES

Whoa! Is Jason here?

PHYLLIS

Yeah, he's inside.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM -- DAY

Forbes finds Jason slumped forward in the chair.

FORBES

Looks like you're having a bad day.

Jason looks up.

JASON

You have no idea.

FORBES

Well, I have a theory.

JASON

Is it good news or bad?

FORBES

I guess that will depend.

INT. JASON'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM -- DAY

Forbes arranges some photos of young women on the table. Jason watches, intrigued.

FORBES  
Do you recognize any of these girls?

Jason leans over the table, looks at the pictures. He shakes his head.

JASON  
No, I don't think so. He notices one photo, picks it up.

INSERT PHOTOGRAPH

A picture of Clara.

END INSERT

JASON (CONT'D)  
This woman. I recognize her. She as my brother-in-law's secretary. I saw a newspaper article a few days ago. She was killed in an accident.

Forbes shakes his head.

FORBES  
It was no accident.

JASON  
I don't understand.

FORBES  
Her brakes were tampered with.

Forbes indicates to the photos.

FORBES (CONT'D)  
I've been doing a bit of investigating. All of these woman are dead.

Jason looks at the photos again.

FORBES (CONT'D)  
There's one thing that links all of them together.

Jason glances at Forbes.

FORBES (CONT'D)  
They were all involved with the  
senator at one point or another.

JASON  
You mean...

FORBES  
Yep, his lovers.

Jason points at the photo of Clara.

JASON  
I actually caught him with this  
girl a few days ago.

FORBES  
There's more.

Forbes takes out another photo, hands it to Jason.

INSERT PHOTOGRAPH

A picture of Kay.

END INSERT

FORBES (CONT'D)  
It appears that Kay was having an  
affair with the senator as well.  
About seven years ago.

JASON  
Oh God! Phyllis was just trying to  
tell me this.

Jason stares at the photo.

FORBES  
Any idea where he might be. I cant  
get hold of him.

JASON  
Selina might know.

Forbes packs the photos into a bag.

FORBES  
I need to go and see her then.

Forbes heads for the door, turns back.

FORBES (CONT'D)  
Well, are you coming with?



Jason scrambles to his feet, follows Forbes out.

EXT. KAY'S CABIN -- DAY

Rain pours down. Selina's car is parked outside. Forbes's car pulls up the driveway, stops next to Selina's. A luxury car is parked next to Selina's.

INT. FORBES' CAR -- DAY

The rain makes visibility from the car difficult.

JASON  
That's Dennis' car.

FORBES  
Wait here.

Forbes climbs out. The windows steam up. Jason rolls down his window a bit, watches Forbes run to the house.

EXT. KAY'S CABIN - DAY

Forbes bang on the door of the cabin. He signals to Jason to come.

Jason jumps out of the car, runs to the cabin. He gets to the door.

JASON  
What the hell's going on?

DEX(O.S.)  
Help!

JASON  
Oh, my God! Dex!

Jason rams up against the door. It budes slightly. He slams into it again with his shoulder. The door swings open.

INT. KAY'S CABIN - BATHROOM -- CONTINUOUS

A sobbing Dex runs into Jason's arms.

JASON  
Where's Kay, and Selina?

Dex bursts into tears.

FORBES

Listen, kid. We need you to calm down, okay? Tell us what happened.

DEX

We were sitting talking with Kay... Mom. She went to pour us some juice.

Dex takes a deep breath.

DEX (CONT'D)

Next thing, Uncle Dennis barges in, pushes me into the bathroom. I heard some screaming and gunshots.

Forbes looks at Jason. Jason puts his arm around Dex. Someone shouts in the distance. A gunshot sounds O.S.

Forbes runs out the door. Jason puts his hands on Dex's shoulders.

JASON

You have to wait here, Dex. Stay away from the windows and the doors.

Dex nods, his bottom lip quivers.

Jason pulls the door closed behind him.

EXT. CABIN -- DAY

No sign of Forbes. Another gunshot sounds. Jason runs toward the forest in the direction of the shots.

EXT. FOREST -- DAY

Jason runs through the dense bush. He slides down a hill, rolls.

Dennis, covered in blood, crawls from behind a tree.

Forbes jumps out of the bush, points his revolver at Dennis.

FORBES

Where are the women?

Dennis drops to his knees, sobbing. He shakes his head.

DENNIS

Selina did this. I came here to warn Kay. She'll kill her.

Forbes takes off. Jason follows.

He sees Forbes backed up against a tree, revolver in hand. Forbes indicates to Jason to look for cover. Jason ducks behind a tree trunk, looks around.

He sees Kay and Selina in a clearing not far from where he hides. Jason crawls closer.

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING -- DAY

Kay's hands are tied behind her back. Selina, pistol in hand, forces her onto her knees.

SELINA

Did you really think I'd let you get away a second time?

Kay's silence infuriates Selina. She holds the pistol against Kay's temple.

SELINA (CONT'D)

Answer me, damn it!

Kay whimpers, cowers. Selina laughs, walks back a few feet.

SELINA (CONT'D)

You are pathetic.

Kay keeps staring at the ground.

SELINA (CONT'D)

Look at me.

Kay looks up at Selina.

SELINA (CONT'D)

Do you know what's even more pathetic? You, running after your best friend's husband.

KAY

I'm sorry, Selina. I was a drunk. I never...

SELINA

Stop with excuses!

Selina aims the pistol at Kay's head again.

SELINA (CONT'D)  
You were fucking my husband!

Jason rolls behind a log a few feet from Selina. Selina's finger tightens on the trigger.

Jason jumps up from his hiding place, runs forward between Selina and Kay, as the shot goes off.

The bullet hits Jason, throws him backwards.

Forbes rushes into the clearing, wrestles Selina to the ground. He takes the pistol from her hand.

SELINA (CONT'D)  
Jason! Oh God, Jason, are you okay?

Jason lies motionless, blood spreads on his shirt. Kay shuffles forward on her knees to Jason. She collapses next to him, sobbing.

INT. HOSPITAL - JASON'S ROOM -- DAY

Jason lies propped up in bed. His shoulder and arm are bandaged. Erica stands next to the bed. She's pale, her eyes red and puffy.

JASON  
Did you know it was Selina?

ERICA  
I had a pretty good idea. She never told me, but she was somehow different after it happened. She wasn't quite so defensive about Kay any more.

JASON  
All this time, and you never said a word.

Tears well up in Erica's eyes.

ERICA  
She's my daughter. I would have done the same for you. I still blame that bitch. If she hadn't--

Jason takes Erica's hand.

JASON

Mother, I do understand. But Selina needs help. Kay wasn't the only woman.

Erica nods her head, unable to speak. She takes a tissue from her bag, wipes her eyes and nose.

The door opens, Kay comes in.

Erica stands, kisses Jason on the forehead.

ERICA

I'll see you later.

Erica walks up to Kay, stops in front of her. She glares at Kay then walks out the room.

KAY

How are you feeling?

JASON

Better. I'm getting out tomorrow.

Kay sits in the chair. She looks embarrassed.

KAY

I owe you an apology.

Kay takes Jason's hand in hers.

KAY (CONT'D)

Is there any chance of us...

JASON

I've thought about us a lot while I've been here in this bed.

Jason touches Kay's cheek, lets his hand drop back to the bed.

JASON (CONT'D)

I loved you, Kay, I don't doubt that. But I think that I loved you for the wrong reasons.

A tear runs down Kay's cheek.

JASON (CONT'D)

I wanted you to need me, and as long as you were a drunk, you did.

Kay takes a tissue from her pocket, wipes her eyes and nose. She smiles at Jason.

Dex bounces into the room. He hugs Jason, causing him to wince.

JASON (CONT'D)  
I was wondering if Dex might stay  
with you for a day or two?

KAY  
That's up to him.

DEX  
Cool.

EXT. PHYLLIS' HOUSE -- DAY

Phyllis potters in the garden. She looks up as Jason walks through the gate.

PHYLLIS  
Hi.

Jason walks straight to her, pulls her into his arms and kisses her.

She throws her arms around his neck, nuzzles into his neck.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)  
I have dreamt about this moment for  
so long.

JASON  
I'm so sorry. I've been an ass.

Jason kisses her on the tip of the nose.

JASON (CONT'D)  
Now, about that baby...

Phyllis laughs, kisses Jason back.

FADE OUT.